

During his time here, the Ambassador and his team have also done a wonderful job at showcasing Armenia's vibrant culture and history through many educational and artistic events in our nation's capital such as An Armenian Odyssey in early March 2020.

Once again, I take this opportunity to salute Ambassador Nersesyan on his mission here in the United States. He has truly served in the United States with distinction and humility and has succeeded in strengthening U.S.-Armenia relations. I would like to bid him and his family farewell with the hope that he will continue to shine a bright light on behalf of his country in future diplomatic assignments.

PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2467, the "PFAS Action Act of 2021", which is comprehensive legislation to regulate Per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") chemicals, clean up contamination, and protect public health.

H.R. 2467 will provide the protections impacted communities need quickly and for the long term.

Specifically, this bill will require Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use tools under several environmental statutes to:

Stem the flow of PFAS contamination into the environment by requiring cleanup of contamination sites, setting air emission limits, prohibiting unsafe incineration of PFAS, and limiting the introduction of new PFAS chemicals into commerce;

Identify health risks by requiring comprehensive health testing for all PFAS, reporting of PFAS releases, and monitoring for PFAS in drinking water;

Inform communities of PFAS risks by requiring the EPA Administrator to develop a risk-communication strategy and establish a website with information on testing of household well water; and

Limit human exposure to PFAS by requiring a drinking water standard for PFAS that protects public health, including the health of vulnerable subpopulations like pregnant women, infants, and children, and holding polluters accountable.

The legislation also provides grants to impacted water systems, creates a voluntary label for cookware that is PFAS free, provides guidance for first responders to limit their exposures, and requires effluent limitations and pretreatment standards for PFAS introduction or discharge.

Known as PFAS, for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, the chemicals in this class of approximately 5,000 substances have become notorious as much for their potential danger as for their perseverance.

Because the chemical bonds that hold the compounds together don't break down easily, they last a very long time—a reality that has led to a commonly used name for the group: "Forever chemicals."

PFAS compounds are also ubiquitous and used in a range of products from food-delivery boxes to nonstick cookware to stain-resistant clothing.

But one of the most troubling routes to PFAS exposure is drinking water that has been contaminated by discharges from factories and other facilities.

PFAS chemicals are an urgent public health threat, because they are persistent, bio-accumulative, and toxic.

PFAS have long been linked with adverse health effects including cancer, immune system effects, infertility, impaired child development, high cholesterol, and thyroid disease.

PFAS have been detected in the drinking water of more than 1,400 communities in 49 states, according to research by the PFAS Project at Northeastern University in Boston and the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

According to monitoring by the EPA, millions of Americans are exposed to unsafe levels of PFAS through their drinking water.

Military families and communities are at especially high risk.

A 2018 UCS analysis of 131 U.S. military facilities showed that nearly all had significant PFAS contamination of groundwater or drinking water, some with levels over 100,000 times the safe limit as determined by the most recent draft scientific assessment from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Included in this analysis was the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston, Texas, which tested at levels of 61,000 parts per trillion.

Clear and swift action from Congress is needed to address the PFAS crisis, and we need an all-hands-on-deck effort to protect both human health and our environment.

This bipartisan legislation will ensure we're treating PFAS as a hazardous chemical and giving our agencies the resources to clean up sites for the betterment of our communities.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 2467, the "PFAS Action Act of 2021."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unexpectedly withheld.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 211, and NAY on Roll Call No. 217.

HONORING DAVIE PINA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Davie Pina as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2021 Agriculturalist of the Year.

A sixth generation Napa Valley farmer, Davie holds a strong and deep connection to the community. He attended high school locally at St. Helena High School and went on to attend college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Davie became an assistant winemaker at Rutherford Hill Winery from 1973 to 1980. After seven years of extensive contributions toward the company, Davie joined John Pina

Jr. & Sons Vineyard Management, where he continued to broaden his knowledge of viticulture. Finally, in 1991, Davie became a managing partner at Pina Vineyard Management, where he has worked ever since.

Along with his demonstrated work ethic and commitment to agriculture, Davie has a rich history of civic engagement and service to the surrounding community. He served on the Board of Directors and as president of the Rutherford Dust Society, a group of community members committed to promoting the highest standards possible for grape-growing and acting as good stewards to the land on which they grow grapes. Davie has also served on the Board of Directors and as president of the Winegrowers of Napa County, and on the Board of Directors for the local Farm Bureau and the Rutherford Grange.

In 1998, he became chair of the Rutherford Dust River Restoration team, which led efforts to restore the Napa River. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community, in 2007, Davie was recognized by the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as Grower of the Year. As part of his mission to assist his community, Davie has served with the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department since 1987 and was its chief from 2012 to 2021. In recognition of his tremendous leadership to the department, he was recognized as the 2013 Fire Fighter of the Year. Davie has continuously pioneered innovative ways to approach sustainable agriculture in Napa Valley and is known throughout Napa as someone committed to sustainability and community service in all realms.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Davie Pina's achievements will leave a tremendous impact on Napa Valley for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the vote on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2668 during the second vote series on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. If I were present, I would have voted YES on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RECOVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2668, the "Consumer Protection and Recovery Act", which will ensure that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) can protect American consumers and put money back in the pockets of consumers who have been the victims of fraud and other scams by amending the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act) to explicitly provide the FTC the ability to obtain both injunctive and